

All Three of the Major Container Commodity Trade Associations Now Support Container Deposits

Excerpts from official statements:

The Aluminum Association

(represents 80 member companies, including Alcoa, Noranda, etc.)



November 18, 2008—“The Aluminum Association today announced an industry-wide effort to increase the industry’s recycling rate for used aluminum beverage containers to 75% by 2015. ... To achieve the recycling target, ... **the Association will encourage and assist local and state governments to consider a range of options, including ... deposit legislation as an option for all beverage containers.** Container deposit programs are a **proven, sustainable method of capturing beverage cans for recycling.** States that have deposit programs have the highest can recycling rates, on average 74% or higher, while the recycling rate in non-deposit states is around 38%.”

The Glass Packaging Institute

(represents 44 member companies, including Owens-Illinois, Saint-Gobain, etc.)



Alexandria, Virginia, December 1, 2008—“The glass container industry, its companies and thousands of employees recognize the growing importance of protecting the environment and conserving valuable energy resources. In recognition of the environmental value of post-consumer cullet, or recycled glass, member companies of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) have agreed to the goal of using at least 50% recycled glass in the manufacture of new glass bottles and jars by 2013. ... **GPI plans to accelerate support of legislative and regulatory measures that will dramatically improve glass recycling systems in order to reach these environmental goals ... and will continue to work with policymakers to improve and expand state beverage deposit programs.**”

[Asked if this support extends to new deposit programs,] Joseph Cattaneo, president of GPI, said, ... **“We will consider supporting [new bottle bills] as long as our criteria for those bills are met,** [including] fairness to all packaging materials. ... GPI also wants to ensure that any deposit program is efficient, minimizes the cost to retailers, and will be near end-markets that can use the material.” [Note: GPI considers that Tennessee’s bill meets all these criteria and is actively supporting its passage.]

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

(represents 80 member companies, including Eastman, Mohawk, etc.)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

May 30, 2006, Position Statements—“The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) **supports the expansion of existing deposit collection programs** to include noncarbonated bottles such as used water and juice containers made of PET and HDPE. Recycling all non-carbonated bottles will **increase recycling rates for municipalities and generate the volume, consistency and quality of supply required by the plastics recycling industry.**

[In addition,] **APR opposes efforts to repeal existing [container deposit programs]. No alternative mechanism has been identified [that provides] a similar stream of consistent, high-volume, high-quality supply [as that] generated by these programs.** The loss of this supply would ... be devastating to the post-consumer plastics recycling industry, as a significant portion of the supply today comes from these states.”